

SPEAKERS' NOTES HANDBOOK

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(1) PRODUCTION AND TRADE

(a) Production

The official index of production, which had stood at 114 in 1929 and had fallen to 89 in the third quarter of 1931, rose to 95 in the first quarter of 1933 and to 96.7 in each of the middle quarters of 1933.

During 1933 furnaces in blast rose from 62 to 81, but in 1923 there were 338.

PIG IRON

(in millions of tons)

1913	1929	1931	1933
10.3	7.6	3.6	4.1

Labour Research, 1934, p. 44.

STEEL

(in millions of tons)

1913	1929	1932	1933
7.66	9.64	5.26	7.0

"The armament industry, as a whole, may be regarded as sufficiently rationalised to compete effectively for available demand in its grim domain."—*Economist*, Jan. 20, 1934.

COAL

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
Production	258	264	220	209	207
Export	64	56	46	42	42
Bunker coal	16	16	15	14	14
Remained in England	177	170	159	153	151
Number of workers...	957	931	868	853	773
Productivity per shift					
cwts.	21.7	21.6	21.6	22.0	22.4

"I.P.C.," 1934, 924.

SHIPBUILDING

At no time during the last ten years have more than half the berths available been occupied with work. Last year work was proceeding on only five per cent. of the building berths, and at the present time, when the position of the industry has somewhat improved, the percentage is still only twenty-nine.—W. Runciman, House of Commons, June 19, 1934.

TEXTILES

LOOMS

The International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations.

1933 (Dec. 31)	...	...	3,129,969 looms in world
1930	...	...	3,158,778
			28,809 less
1933 (Dec. 31)	...	...	1,846,680 looms in Europe
1930	...	...	1,914,326
			67,646 less

SPINDLES

			1913	1933
Great Britain...	...	...	55,652,000	49,001,000
India ...	...	...	6,084,000	9,506,000
China ...	...	...	—	4,585,000
Canada	...	...	855,000	1,240,000
Japan ...	...	...	2,300,000	8,209,000

COTTON MILL CONSUMPTION (1,000 bales)

				1913	1933
Great Britain ...	...	...	...	4,274	2,254
India ...	...	...	...	2,177	2,739
Japan ...	...	...	...	1,588	2,761
China ...	...	...	...	—	2,390
Canada	...	...	...	113	170

The Indian cotton industry has $3\frac{1}{2}$ million more spindles at its disposal than in 1913. The number of spindles in Canada has increased by 385,000.

MOTOR CARS

(PRODUCTION)

		1929	1932	1933
Private cars	... ..	182,000	171,000	221,000
Commercial	... ..	56,000	61,000	65,000
<i>Export—</i>				
Private cars	... ..	34,000	32,000	41,000
Commercial	... ..	8,000	8,000	11,000
Retained imports	... ..	38,000	3,000	4,000

INDUSTRIAL BUILDING

			1932	1933
New factories, etc.	... ..	...	636	463
Extension of	... ..	...	174	95
Factories closed down	... ..	...	413	409

(b) Trade

	£	£	£
	1929	1932	1933
Imports	1,221,000,000	702,000,000	676,000,000
Brit. Exports	729,000,000	365,000,000	367,000,000
Re-exports	110,000,000	51,000,000	49,000,000
Im. surplus...	382,000,000	286,000,000	259,000,000

WORLD TRADE

(TEXTILES)

Up to 1929, in round figures, the world export trade amounted to 8,000 million square yards a year. Since 1929 it has declined to 5,000 million square yards.—Sir T. Barlow, *Daily Herald*, March 15, 1934.

EASTERN COMPETITION

INDIAN TEXTILE PRODUCTION

1920	...	...	2,959	million yards
1930	...	...	3,777	" "
1931	...	...	3,883	" "
1932	...	...	4,362	" "
1933	...	...	4,870	" "

JAPANESE COTTON

Since 1929 Japanese exports, in million square yards, have increased from 1,790.8 to 2,090.2 in 1933.

BRITISH TRADE IN INDIA

The average between 1909-1914 for imported machinery was 4 per cent. of the whole imports into India. In 1928-29 it was 7 per cent., in 1929-30 it was 8 per cent., and in 1930-31 it was 9 per cent.

Cotton manufactures and other articles are as follows: 72 per cent. in 1909-14, 73 per cent. in 1914-19, 71 per cent. in 1928, 71 per cent. in 1929, and 68 per cent. in 1930, of which cotton were 36, 36, 25, 25, 15 per cent.

The figures for Iron and Steel were 7, 6, 8, 7, 7 per cent.—United Kingdom trade in India, 1931.

EXPORT OF MACHINERY

Great prosperity was enjoyed in Lancashire while the factories were building machinery for the growing cotton industries of Japan, China, and India, but the excess of productive capacity now existing means that little new machinery is being required. Foreign firms have even been buying second-hand machinery from Lancashire's closed mills.

EXPORT OF TEXTILE MACHINERY

£		£	
8,281,848	in 1913	10,831,355	in 1925
3,943,001	„ 1918	12,156,983	„ 1926
8,427,248	„ 1919	9,957,259	„ 1927
9,158,733	„ 1920	11,739,232	„ 1928
25,112,881	„ 1921	11,623,480	„ 1929
21,112,884	„ 1922	11,643,902	„ 1930
21,449,140	„ 1923	8,628,162	„ 1931
15,734,300	„ 1924	5,280,715	„ 1932

Abstract of Labour Statistics, p. 374.

	1913	1921	1925	1929	1930	1931	1921-1931 total
To:							
India	50.3	59.8	34.9	38.2	30.6	21.9	419.1
China	3.3	16.5	1.6	10.6	10.5	5.8	79.7
Japan	19.7	22.1	3.9	14.4	5.3	2.9	124.1

(thousand tons)

The British Isles, by Stamp and Beaver, p. 396.

(c) Destruction of Production and Means of Production

J. S. Haskell, Chairman of the Eastern Bank, Ltd.:
 “If throughout the world the acreage of wheat, cotton, sugar and rubber were decreased, if there were less drilling for oil, if subsidies for shipping were ruthlessly cut down, and steps to curtail production in other directions were taken, there would be every prospect of an advance in prices and a consequent trade revival.”—*Statist*, April, 1933.

“To allow production to go on unchecked and unregulated in these modern times when it could almost at a moment’s notice be increased to an almost indefinite extent was absolute folly.”—Neville Chamberlain in the House of Commons, June 2, 1933. *Times*, June 3, 1933.

TEXTILES

The *Master Spinners’ Federation* scheme sets out to eliminate 10,000,000 spindles at a cost of roughly £2,000,000. The scheme is compulsory in that all spinners will be called upon to pay a levy to repay the loan necessary for the scheme.

The Committee apparently contemplates a running spindleage of about 30 millions. This would mean that since 1913 nearly half of the capacity of the industry would have been scrapped, and with that nearly half of the workpeople.—“L.R.” 1934, p. 264.

The *Times*, June 16th, 1934: “The remaining part of the cotton industry can be made profitable only by the elimination of over-capacity, probably by the elimination of 15 million spindles.”

The Woolcombers’ Mutual Association, Ltd., formed early in 1933, looks “to assist the woolcombing industry by the purchase and dismantling of redundant and obsolete mills, plant and machinery for re-sale under restrictive covenants against their further use for woolcombing.”—“L.R.” 9, 1934.

SHIPBUILDING

The National Shipbuilders’ Security, Ltd., which was registered in 1930 to assist the shipbuilding industry by the purchase of redundant and/or obsolete shipyards, the dismantling and disposal of the con-

tents, and the re-sale of the sites under restrictions against their further use for shipbuilding.

The National Shipbuilders' Security, Ltd. Since 1930 the Company raised £1,000,000 of public money, but no provision has been made for the dispossessed workers. John Hill, the Boilermakers' Secretary, estimates that there are 12,600 fewer men in the industry than a year ago (1933). Since 1922 no fewer than 189,000 workers, out of 358,000, have left the industry.

Four shipyards belonging to Messrs. W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., at Walker and Howdon-on-Tyne, have been declared redundant, and National Shipbuilders' Security, Ltd., have purchased them for scrapping. For some time only a skeleton staff has been working, but those employed have now been dismissed. Shipbuilding is forbidden on these sites for forty years.—“L.R.” 212b, 1934.

The National Shipbuilders' Security, Ltd. Up to the end of 1933 this new type of capitalist company had bought up and closed down one hundred shipbuilding berths.—*Fascism* 46. Dutt.

COAL

The Coal Commissioners have given their intention to enforce schemes of re-organisation in Durham, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Notts and North Derby (they produced 91,000,000 tons in 1932). The proposed scheme arranges for partial amalgamation of the collieries in each district and the setting up of a central authority which would involve the co-ordination of the selling policy. The owners are to be levied to raise a fund to close superfluous pits.—“L.R.” 19, 1934.

COAL RESERVES IN GREAT BRITAIN

International Geological Congress, 1912: 133,117 million tons actually proved.

Quantity produced in 1927-29 was 248,870,356 tons; i.e., reserves for 500 years at present rate of consumption.

FOODSTUFFS

BREAD

In 1931 one-third of the wheat and barley crop of England was used not for human consumption but to be fed to cattle.—*Statist*, February 25, 1933.

Less Bread: 15 per cent. less bread is eaten in this country every year than in 1920.—Executive Committee of Bakers' Union. Report to Biennial Conference, August, 1934.

MEAT

From Denmark it was reported in November, 1933, that cattle were being slaughtered in the Government abattoirs at the rate of 5,000 a week for the carcasses to be burnt in the incinerators. The Government established a special destruction fund, but so great was the cost of destruction that Parliament had to be approached for further credits for the construction of new slaughterhouses.—*Fascism* 45.

On December 20th, 1933, cattle imports from the Irish Free State were restricted to 50 per cent. of the 1932-33 winter level, and the import of veal and beef were prohibited.

Imports of cattle from Canada for the first quarter of 1934 are to be reduced to the level of 1933. Imports of foreign canned beef and chilled beef are to be regulated and limited—the latter to two-thirds the 1932 level.

POTATOES

The National Farmers' Union has prepared an output-regulation scheme. The Potato Board will withhold, compulsorily if necessary, from the market any potato supplies beyond what it regards as the normal consumption. The "excess potatoes" will be used for pig feeding and for manufacture into industrial alcohol.

ORANGES

In August, 1933, between England and Spain, 1,500,000 oranges were thrown into the sea.

MOLASSES

United Molasses Co., Ltd. For 1931-32 the annual report showed a reduction in the balance sheet of £433,400 used

"to write off molasses run to waste because of lack of storage accommodation . . . while the contraction in demand necessitated the destruction of large stocks at the point of production."

For 1932-33 the same company used £90,600 to write off the value of molasses run to waste.—*Labour Research* 9, 1934.

(2) RATIONALISATION UNEMPLOYMENT WAGE CUTS PROFITS

(a) *Rationalisation*

SPEEDING-UP

In the *Building Trade* every worker is forced to do $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as much work in a week than in 1924.

In the *Iron and Steel Trade* every worker is forced to do 35 per cent. more work in a week.

In the *Motor Industry* every worker is forced to do 32 per cent. more work in a week.

All British workers are forced to do one-fifth more work in a week than they did in 1924.

SPEEDING-UP AND UNEMPLOYMENT

A worker used to build six motor tyres per day. To-day one man and a girl with two machines can turn out 120 tyres per day.

It used to take one man eight hours to make 450 bricks. To-day a brick-making machine will make 40,000 per hour, or 320,000 in eight hours.

Two men have replaced 14 men in charging steel furnaces.

In repairing locomotives with oxy-acetylene torch, four men can do in three to seven hours what it used to take eight men three weeks to do.

Four Marion electric shovels No. 5560 will handle as much earth as 4,800 labourers, in an eight-hour day.

A continuous automatic process can now handle raw wool, wash it, extract wax, fluff it, spin it into

yarn, dye it, weave it into cloth, cut it, roll it into bolts and wrap it for delivery.

The number of workers per week per car in a well-known motor firm fell from 55 in 1922 to 28 in 1923, 19 in 1924, 17 in 1925, 12 in 1926, 11 in 1927, and 8 men in 1934.

Seven men cut as much pig iron as 60 men used to do.

In some oil-fueled steamers, three firemen are now doing the work of 120 stokers.

Recruitment of women to industry because they are cheaper than men, continues unabated. The number of highly-skilled male workers in the engineering industry decreased between 1929 and 1933 by 32 per cent. The number of women employed in the same industry rose by 7.8 per cent.

All along the line it is the same.

INCREASED DANGER OF ACCIDENTS

The Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops gives tacit admission to the prevalence of deliberate starvation. In his report for 1933 he says:—

“Workers are returning to employment after long periods of enforced unemployment. Many of them are suffering from lack of nourishment and physically and mentally are less alert and more liable to mishap than in normal times.”

Accidents in 1932	...	...	...	106,164
” ” 1933	...	...	...	113,260
				<hr/>
Increase	...	...	...	7,096
Fatal Accidents, 1932...	...	...	...	602
” ” 1933...	...	...	...	688
				<hr/>
Increase	...	...	...	86

MINING AND MANUFACTURING

The index of productivity, 1924-33, has fallen by 1.9 per cent., and the number employed by 10.3 per cent.; hence average productivity per worker has risen by 9.4 per cent. During the same time wages fell by 6 per cent.—“L.R.” 202, 1934.

MINING

The average output per shift in the first quarter of 1934 was pushed up to 23.32 cwts., so that the profit was maintained at over 1s. a ton, though wages fell from 9s. 2d. to 8s. 5d. a shift and production from 60 to 53 million tons.—“L.R.” 173, 1934.

Annual output per miner: 229 tons in 1924 rose to 271 tons in 1933, and from 1924-1933 17.59 cwts. to 22.45 cwts per man-shift. Wages fell from 10s. 7¾d. to 9s. 1½d. per man-shift.—Twenty-first Abstract of Labour Statistics.

Total wage in 1920 was	£65,500,000
“ “ 1933 “	14,500,000
reduction of 77 per cent.	

SOUTH WALES

NO. OF MEN EMPLOYED

1923-4 was 250,000 *peak year*

1929 “ 160,972

1933 “ 129,179

reduction of 50 per cent.

—Mr. Daggar, 15/11/34, House of Commons.

MACHINERY IN MINES

Two tons out of every five are machine cut, and 53 million tons are machine carried.—“L.R.” 180.

BUILDING

1924-33. Number employed rose by 11.5 per cent. Index of building activity rose 43.4. Rise of productivity per man, 29 per cent. Drop in hourly wages of bricklayers and labourers of 12 per cent.

There are 228,590 building trade operatives unemployed.—*Architects' Journal* for October, 1933.

SHIPBUILDING

There are 54,000 fewer men on the books of the shipbuilders than there were in the war days, when there were too few; these men have died or drifted away into other employment. Of those who remain nearly half are out of work. But that is not all. The outlook in the industry is so hopeless that apprentices are not coming forward. The absence of an adequate number of youths under training is a grave problem, and a body of Ministers constituting a National Government could not in these unsettled times overlook the possibility of another emergency arising in five, ten or more years, when the safety of the nation and its food supplies might be a matter of shipyard workers.—Sir A. Hurd, *Observer*, July 22, 1934.

The *Times*, 30th June : "The tonnage built per worker employed was 6.6 in 1920 and 10.4 in 1930. The increased mechanisation of labour since 1923 has thrown at least 40,000 shipbuilders on the streets for good. In the year 1924 the net value produced per worker was 169 pounds sterling, but in 1930 it was 210 pounds sterling. The production per worker rose in the period from 1924 to 1930 by 24 per cent. in value and 75 per cent. in volume."

ENGINEERING

J. C. Little, President of Amalgamated Engineering Union, said on unemployment that in general engin-

eering and engineers' iron and steel founding it rose from 52,473 in July, 1929, to 129,742 in July, 1933; the number of insured persons attached to these trades fell from 592,250 in 1930 to 551,200 in 1932.

He quoted figures to show that practically 16 per cent. of the workers were already working 40 hours a week or less, with another 18.6 per cent. working under 47 hours, but over 40.

The average output per person in the industry had greatly increased—by not less than 24 per cent. between 1924 and 1929.

£13,000,000 would represent 17½ per cent. addition to the wages bill, but only 6 per cent. to the total cost of production.—“L.R.” 67, 1934.

COTTON

Productivity per worker rose 18 per cent. 1924-33. Weekly wages fell by 4.9 per cent.—Twenty-first Abstract of Labour Statistics.

IDLE LOOMS

1930 ... 603,055 looms in the world

1933 ... 395,625

Does not include scrapped looms.

In *Great Britain*, though ordinary looms have decreased from 692,899 in 1930 to 570,429 in 1933, automatics have increased from 11,810 to 13,994, and automatic attachments from 2,295 to 3,541.

1930 ... 290,154 in Great Britain

1933 ... 157,772

Does not include scrapped looms.

STATE OF COTTON INDUSTRY

248 out of 252 factories were constructed before 1910, and that 69.1 per cent. of all carding machines, 77.5 per

cent. of all spindles, and 67.7 per cent. of all looms had been manufactured before 1910.

STEEL SMELTING, IRON PUDDLING, ETC.

In 1933 worker produces 40 per cent. more than 1924; wages less by 10 per cent.—Twenty-first Abstract of Labour Statistics.

BOOT AND SHOE

Productive capacity had increased by 4,620,000 pairs compared with 1924, with 8,332 fewer operatives engaged in production.—W. R. Townley, *Daily Herald*, 22/5/34.

In 1932 22,886 members, or 30 per cent. of the membership of the Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, drew out of work benefit. There were at present (May 21, 1934) about 12,000 totally unemployed in the industry, of whom 6,200 were union members.—“L.R.” 152, 1934.

RAILWAYS

Train miles run per employee rose (1924-33) by 25 per cent.; wages of porters and labourers fell by 11-12½ per cent.—Twenty-first Abstract of Labour Statistics.

The use of electrical devices in signalling has helped to cut the number of signalmen from 26,819 in 1931 to 25,521 in 1933.

“I may mention the installation of up-to-date methods of signalling; which has enabled us to close more than 200 signal boxes and to effect a saving of some £90,000 a year in the cost of signalling.”—G. W. Loder, Chairman S.R., *Times*, 2/3/1934.

Since 1931 the number of ton-miles per railwayman employed has risen from 656 to 675.

(b) *Unemployment*

The depth of the general crisis of capitalism in Great Britain is shown by the fact that there are over two million workers unemployed at a time when industrial production has practically reached the 1929 level again, two million workers for whom it is obvious there will never again be any work, at least in peace time.

In 1933 Baldwin said (Nov. 27, 1933): There is a great core of unemployment. We do not know what the numbers may be. There may be a million, a million and a half, or less than a million, but there will be a vast number for whom there is but little hope of employment being found in this country. The gates of migration are closed to us. What can we do? That is a problem that has baffled the country completely up to now.

If the 2½ millions of unemployed were absorbed in factory occupations, the national output of manufactured articles would be on such a scale that the available buying markets . . . would be inadequate to absorb it. Hence, if such a method of labour absorption could and did take place, it would only precipitate a new crisis.—*Times Trade Supplement*, July, 23, 1932.

“Unemployment, under-nourishment and preventable maladies and accidents seem to be the unavoidable concomitant of current civilisation in Western Europe in the present day.”—Sir G. Newman, Minister of Health for 1933.

Debate on unemployment in House of Commons, March, 22. Mr. Lawson pointed out that while the total number of unemployed slightly decreased, the number of long-term unemployed had risen in the

course of the last two or three years from 100,000 to 437,000.—“L.R.” 114, 1934.

DRIVING WORKERS ON TO POOR LAW

Poor law figures have increased during the year.

In 1932/33 1,263,264 workers and their dependants received relief.

In 1933/34 the figures rose to 1,325,043.

Outdoor relief rose from 982,549 in February, 1932, to 1,221,676 in February, 1934.

RAILWAYS

Nos. Employed, 1913: 618,308.

1921	735,900	1932	598,000
1928	702,100	1933	566,000
1929	642,100	1934	575,000 decrease 160.9
1931	615,600		

—“L.R.” 251, 1934.

In the last ten years 134,270 workers—or one in every five nearly—has been dismissed.

SHOP ASSISTANTS

J. R. Leslie, General Secretary Shop Assistants' Union: The Government seems still to be indifferent to the fact that over 300,000 adult distributive workers are unemployed, for the measure proposes no limitation on the working hours of adults.—*Daily Herald*, February 26th, 1934. Shop Hours Bill text, published on February 24th.

TEACHERS

In 1931 there were 743, 1932 1,100 unemployed after a year from leaving the training colleges.

TEXTILES

In the textile machinery industry as a whole em-

ployment has declined from 70,000 in 1921 to 60,000 in 1924, and 48,000 at the Census of Production in 1930.

SHIPBUILDING

A 40-hour week has been refused at a conference on September 25th. It is estimated that this would absorb 18,700 unemployed.—“L.R.” 264, 1934.

ECONOMIES ON UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

Mr. Chamberlain's third Budget speech on April 17, 1934:—

Surplus of £31,000,000. Reduction of 6d. in income tax estimate total of £20,500,000. £24,000,000 in a full year.

Minister of Labour announced that the Means Test had saved £20,000,000.—“L.R.” 98, 1934.

(c) Wage Cuts

Wage Cuts per week—1928-1933:

				£
1928	...	...	...	142,000
1929	...	...	...	78,600
1930	...	...	...	56,600
1931	...	...	...	401,150
1932	...	...	...	249,200
1933	...	...	...	65,250

Wage Cuts per year—1929-1933:

				£
1929	...	...	...	4,099,600
1930	...	...	...	2,943,200
1931	...	...	...	20,859,800
1932	...	...	...	12,958,400
1933	...	...	...	3,432,000

It must be remembered that these figures are calculated on *wage rates*. They take no account of other factors, of short time, intermittent employment, or losses through transfer to a different rate.—J. Mahon, *United Action* 12.

There was a drop in aggregate wages in 1931 of £148 million from 1924 and of £132 million from 1928.—*Industrial Britain*. Hilton.

WAGES AND OUTPUT

In Great Britain, between 1924 and 1930, according to Colin Clark's "The National Income, 1924-31," the output per person employed rose from 100 to 113, while the proportion of wages to home-produced income fell from 41.5 per cent. (42.5 per cent. in 1911 to 38 per cent.).

Between 1913 and 1928 the percentage of national income going to wages fell in the United Kingdom from 42.7 to 40.9.—*World Economic Survey*, 1932-3, page 101.

RAILWAY WAGES BILL

		Av. earnings of total Conciliation Staff	Av. earnings Grade 2 Porter	Av. earnings Shop & Ar- tisan Staff
1925		67/4	51/10	69/11
1928	117,997	66/2	48/-	70/5
1929	115,284	66/5	46/11	69/1
1930	114,536	65/5	46/7	69/9
1931	105,835	65/10	46/4	68/5
1932	99,847	61/8	43/2	65/4
1933	(b)97,000	62/2	43/5	64/11

(b) estimate on 4 main line reports.

Average salaried staff, 1926, £101.9; £84.9, 1934.
Conciliation, 1926, £378.9; £322.3, 1934. Shop and

Artisan, 1926, £140.5; £110.2, 1934.—“L.R.” 251, 1934.

WAGES AND SALARIES

1933	...	£96,714,000	decrease from	1932	£3,133,000
1932	...	99,847,000	„ „	1931	5,998,000
1931	...	105,835,000	„ „	1930	8,701,000
1930	...	114,536,000	„ „	1921	28,464,000

RAILWAYMEN'S WAGE CUTS

In August, 1928, the men on the main railways accepted “a voluntary and temporary” deduction of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. until May, 1930. In March, 1931, the National Wages Board reimposed these cuts, with an additional cut of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in respect of earnings in excess of 40s. a week, and also made reductions in overtime rates and rates for night work and Sundays. Rail shopmen's wages were also reduced by $4\frac{1}{6}$ per cent., and in July, 1932, deductions were imposed on the railways now owned by the L.P.T.B.

In 1931 the “temporary” cuts involved a saving of £4,600,000 by the companies; the railwaymen now get back only £1,138,000 (i.e., the companies have returned only 24.7 per cent. of what they deducted).

Since 1931 49,292 railwaymen had been discharged as a result of speed-up, making a total saving of £8,835,000 on the wages bill.

AGRICULTURAL WAGES

Gloucestershire minimum, adults, 30s. a week; Essex, 30s.; Lincolnshire (Holland Division), 33s. labourers, 43s. horse-men; Devon, minimum for women is 5d. per hour over 20 years; for men 31s. for 52 hours summer, 50 hours winter; Durham, 29s. minimum; Oxfordshire, 30s.; Berkshire, 28s. 6d.—“L.R.” 92.

MINING

REAL EARNINGS IN 1914 AND 1933

	Average Earnings per shift		% Rise	Average days pits were working		% Rise or Fall of living earnings	% inc. in cost of real earnings	Rise or Fall of real earnings
	1914 s. d.	1933 s. d.		1914	1933			
Northumberland	6 2¼	7 8½	24.2	4.64	5.15	+ 11.3	+ 1.8
Durham	6 2½	8 0½	29.0	4.99	4.76	- 4.2	- 9.6
Lancashire, Cheshire, N. Staffs	6 0¼	9 3¼	54.0	5.25	4.22	- 19.6	- 9.0
Yorkshire	6 10	10 13¼	48.5	5.31	4.00	- 24.8	- 17.8
S. Wales and Mon.	6 9	8 11	32.1	5.77	5.11	- 11.0	- 13.7
Scotland	6 9	8 9	30.0	4.91	5.30	+ 7.8	+ 2.9
Great Britain	6 5¾	9 1½	40.6	5.05	4.56	- 9.7	- 7.0

"I.R." 180, 1934.

THE MINES 1920-1933

Year	No. of wage earners on colliery books (a)	No. unemployed (a)	Total output million tons	Output per man shift cwts.	% of coal cut by machinery	Average earnings per shift s. d.
1920 ...	—	—	229.53	15.06(c)	13	15 1½(c)
1921 ...	1,069,700	126,300	163.25	14.46(d)	14	19 2 (e)
1922 ...	1,129,200	56,400	249.61	18.02	15	9 11¾
1923 ...	1,184,500	30,300	276.00	17.82	17	10 1
1924 ...	1,140,000	99,300	267.12	17.59	19	10 7¾
1925 ...	1,084,600	140,500	243.18	18.02	20	10 6
1926 ...	925,400	124,800(b)	126.28	18.46(c)	22	10 5(c)
1927 ...	975,700	206,500	251.23	20.61	23	10 0¾
1928 ...	900,000	213,000	237.47	21.29	26	9 3½
1929 ...	949,400	157,200	257.91	21.69	28	9 2¾
1930 ...	886,800	211,000	243.88	21.62	31	9 3½
1931 ...	840,500	257,200	219.46	21.61	35	9 2½
1932 ...	779,900	305,400	208.73	21.99	38	9 2
1933 ...	777,800	263,600	206.99	22.45	—	9 1½

(a) At December. (b) Exclusive of some still concerned with the 1926 dispute. (c) First quarter.
(d) First quarter; 17.73 cwts. in last quarter. (e) First quarter; 12s. 8d. in last quarter.

THE FIGHT FOR HIGHER WAGES

Industry	Number of workers	
	Organised	Affected
<i>Demanding Return of 1931 and 1932 Cuts:—</i>		
Railwaymen: N.U.R., A.S.L.E.F., R.C.A.	400,000	650,000
Seamen: N.U.S.	60,000	260,000
Dockers: T. & G.W.U. and others	95,000	165,000
Teachers: N.U.T. and others ...	146,000	280,000
Textile (woollen): N.U.T.W. ...	100,000	300,000
Chemical: Joint Committee of Unions affiliated to T.U.C. and N.U.C.W.	25,000	100,000
Bakers and Confectioners ...	13,000	40,000
Co-operative Retail Societies Employees: N.U.D.A.W.	—	23,000

Demanding 2d. Per Hour Wage Increase:—

Engineers: A.E.U.	150,000	700,000
Building Trades: N.F.B.T.O. ...	300,000	1,000,000
Electrical Trades	28,000	150,000

Other Demands for Wage Increases:—

Gas Workers... ..	—	130,000
Miners: M.F.G.B.	650,000	1,100,000
Postal Workers: U.P.O.W. ...	100,000	230,000
Civil Servants: C.S.C.A. & others	100,000	380,000
Textile: Bleachers and Dyers ...	85,000	120,000
Boot and Shoe Workers: N.U. of Boot and Shoe Operatives ...	78,000	—

Industry	Number of workers	
	Organised	Affected
Agricultural Workers—N.U. of A.W.	30,000	—
Hemp & Flax Workers (Scottish)	—	12,000

Facing Employers' Demands for Heavy Cuts:—

Textile: Cotton Unions	250,000	500,000
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Together with these demands for wage increases on a national scale go scores and scores of struggles in different factories for better conditions, increased prices and resistance to reductions.

(d) Profits

THE BANKS

Speaking on February 8th, 1933, Sir Josiah Stamp stated:—

“ Summarised figures of the five big banks, showing an increase of over £200,000,000 in deposits, and a fall of over £130,000,000 in advances, indicate the immense resources now running to waste.”

	Deposits	Advances	Ratio
1913: 47 banks	£1,142,038	£604,000	51.8
1932: London clearing banks	1,898,000	785,000	41.4
	(thousands)	(thousands)	
	—“ L.R.D.” 48.		

PROFITS OF LEADING COMPANIES

The 1,960 leading companies, reported by the *Economist*, showed an increase in net profits of £17,000,000 (to £160 m.) or by 12 per cent. in the year 1933-34 over 1932-33.—“ L.R.” 173, 1934.

BRITISH OVERSEA INVESTMENTS

1929 income	...	£231,000,000	6.17 per cent. of cap.
1930 income	...	209,000,000	5.61 per cent.
1931	...	169,000,000	4.56 per cent.
1932	...	156,000,000	4.30 per cent.
1933	...	155,000,000	4.26 per cent.

The nominal amount of capital held abroad was :

1930 £3,425,000,000

1932 3,355,000,000

—“L.R.” 1934.

RAILWAYS

In 1933 the total capital of the four great concerns, with a par value of £1,101 millions, had sunk to a Stock Exchange valuation of £542.3 millions, or less than half the nominal value. By March, 1934 (*Economist*, 3/3/34), the market value of this capital had risen by £307 millions and stood at £850.1 millions.

In 1931-32-33 the net revenues were £88,700,000; interest and dividends, £92,770,000.

The total wages bill fell by £8,000,000. 1933 the payments to holders of loans and debentures and various types of shares totalled £30,176,000. £12,200,000 of this went to the bondholders.

With a labour force of 566,300 (March, 1933) this payment of debenture and loan interest represents £21 per worker per annum, and the total interest and dividends represents £53 10s. per worker per annum, or 20s. 6d. per worker per week.—“L.R.” 108 Supplement.

“Since 1927 the four main line British railways had reduced expenditure on salaries and wages by £20,000,000.

“The net revenue of the railways for the year 1933 represented an increase of £2,320,971 over the previous

year. Traffic receipts for the first nine weeks of 1934 showed an increase of £1,609,000; if the wages and conditions were restored to the level existing before the decisions of the National Wages Board and Shopmen's Council of 1931, it is estimated that the net revenue of the railways this year would still considerably exceed the amount of net revenue of 1931.—“L.R.” 91b.

NET RECEIPTS

1932	...	...	...	£23,889,000
1933	...	...	...	26,358,000

An increase of nearly 11 per cent. at a time when the labour force between March 1932 and 1933 fell by 5 per cent.

NET REVENUE

1931	...	...	...	£33,471,000
1932	...	...	...	26,425,000
1933	...	...	...	28,805,000

—Twenty-first Abstract of Labour Statistics.

WAR

WAR EXPENDITURES

(In million £)

			Navy	Army	Air	Total
1913-14	...	...	48.8	28.3	—	77.2
1924-25	...	...	55.6	44.7	14.3	114.7
1929-30	...	...	55.7	40.5	16.7	113.0
1930-31	...	...	52.6	40.5	17.8	110.5
31-32	...	...	51.1	38.5	17.7	107.3
32-33	...	...	50.1	35.9	17.1	103.0
33-34	...	...	53.5	37.9	16.8	107.9
34-35 (est.)	...	...	56.6	39.6	17.6	113.7

—L.R.D. 53.

DEATHS AND WOUNDED IN LAST WAR

Country	Dead	Wounded
Gt. Britain and Ireland ...	812,317	1,849,494
Canada ...	621,817	166,105
Australia ...	60,456	154,732
New Zealand ...	18,212	45,946
South Africa ...	9,032	17,843
Newfoundland ...	1,609	3,628
British Colonies ...	52,044	78,535
India ...	73,432	84,715

Total (the Empire)	1,089,919	2,400,988
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WORLD AIR POWERS

France ...	1,650
U.S.S.R. ...	1,300-1,500
U.S.A. ...	1,000-1,100
Italy ...	1,000-1,100
Britain ...	850

The cost of the new policy (doubling air force) is estimated at £7,000,000 in equipment alone.

The present personnel of the R.A.F. stands at 31,000, is expected to be increased by 60 per cent.

The pay item would rise from £4,564,000 to about £7,300,000.

PRODUCTION FOR WAR

The forced building of factories for the extraction of benzine from coal serves open militarist aims. The Air Ministry has announced in Parliament that this year seven squadrons of the British Air Force will fly on British oil, and that by next year the number will be 17 squadrons. According to the new agreement 300,000 tons of coal are to be used to produce a million gallons of oil.—“I.P.C.” 924b, 1934.

SUBSIDIES TO WAR MAKERS

More than £10,000,000 has already been spent this year on subsidising the capitalist owners of industries whose wartime utility is immeasurable, with the immediate result that the worker will have to pay more for his commodities.

Sir Archibald Hurd, naval expert writing recently in the semi-Government *Observer* laid emphasis on the MacDonald Cabinet's preparations for war. “The outlook in the Shipping Industry,” he wrote, “is so hopeless that apprentices are not coming forward. A body of Ministers constituting a National Government could not, in these unsettled times, overlook the possibility of another emergency arising in five, ten or more years when the safety of the nation and its food supplies might be a matter of shipyard workers.”

Coming from a source so close to the National Government, such admissions as these destroy once and for all the illusion created by our enemies that we distort the presentation and march of history and that we exaggerate the dangers of imperialist war.

(3) EDUCATION AND MALNUTRITION

(a) *Education*

THE SCHOOLS

In England and Wales, at March 31, 1933, there were 20,874 public elementary schools maintained by local authorities, with a 1932-33 average of 5,635,216 pupils on the registers, and an average attendance of 5,049,284. 9,932 schools were council (or provided) schools, and 10,942 voluntary (or non-provided) schools, the average numbers on the registers being 3,822,225 and 1,812,991.

As the result of a survey in 1924 the premises of 2,827 elementary schools in England and Wales were placed on the black list.

Category "A" were schools condemned and incapable of improvement.

Category "B" might possibly be made suitable by considerable expenditure on premises and reduced numbers.

Category "C" might not be unsuitable for much lower numbers.

			A	B	C	Total
Original totals	...	...	679	1,766	382	2,827
By Dec., 1933, closed or re-						
placed	...	...	297	136	22	455
Defects removed	...	...	155	820	151	1,126
Total	...	...	452	956	173	1,581

Of the original schools 714 were council and 2,113 voluntary schools, of which 443 and 1,138 respectively have been removed from the list (note, however, that

the terms of category "A" are "incapable of improvement," while the figures in the table show that 155 had defects removed!).

No fewer than 1,246 schools remained on the Black List at the end of 1933; i.e., only 66 per cent. of "A" schools, 54 per cent. of "B" schools, and 45 per cent. of "C" schools have been removed from the list.

The capital expenditure on elementary schools approved by the Board of Education was:

£9,187,000	in 1930-31,
£5,938,000	in 1931-32,
£3,171,000	in 1932-33,
£1,950,000	in 1933-34 (nine months).

The amount of approved capital expenditure on education as a whole was:

£13,003,000	in 1930-31,
£7,781,000	in 1931-32,
£4,221,000	in 1932-33,
£2,488,000	in 1933-34 (nine months).

SCHOOL-LEAVING AGE

It is officially estimated that the number of juveniles, 15-17 inclusive, available for employment will increase as follows:—

1933	...	...	...	1,756,000
1934	...	...	...	1,811,000
1935	...	...	...	1,871,000
1936	...	...	...	2,062,000
1937	...	...	...	2,199,000

Lord Halifax, President of the Board of Education, stated with regard to the raising of the school-leaving age to 15: "The over-ruling consideration in this matter is finance." It would cost £8,000,000 if maintenance allowances were given. It would mean that

355,000 children would be taken off the labour market, according to Ministry of Labour estimates.—185a.

THE TEACHERS: SALARIES AND EMPLOYMENT

Teachers' salaries were cut by 10 per cent. as from October 1st, 1931. Half the cut has been restored as from July 1, 1934.

From September 4, 1931, the 50 per cent. grant in aid of capital expenditure on elementary schools was stopped.

In 1932-33 students' admissions to teachers' training colleges were cut down by 1,000. In 1933-34 the number of students in training was cut by about 10 per cent. (which, in London for example, involved a 20 per cent. reduction in admissions); and there is a further cut of 8 per cent. spread over 1934-36.—Local Government Speakers' Handbook, 34-35 edition.

CLASSES

Mr. Humphrey also said :

“5,333,000 elementary school children, two-fifths of these are in classes of over 40. The number of senior classes with over 40 pupils exceeds 9,000. Though there was a slight decrease in the number of children taught in groups of 50, there was a greater corresponding increase in the number taught in groups over 40.”
—104a.

Total number 151,950 on March 31st, 1933, in England and Wales.

55,661	had 40-50 pupils,
8,226	50-60,
70	60 and over,
63,957 total being 42 per cent.	

Nearly half the classes for children under eleven have more than 40 pupils.

March 31, 1929	...	10,883	over 50 pupils	7.2 per cent.
1930	...	10,017		6.6 per cent.
1931	...	8,571		5.6 per cent.
1932	...	7,986		5.2 per cent.
1933	...	8,296		5.5 per cent.

CLASS CHARACTER OF EDUCATION

"Since the standard of education, elementary and secondary, that is being given to the child of poor parents is already in very many cases superior to that which the middle-class parent is providing for his own child, we feel it is time to pause in this policy of expansion."—May Report.

10.4 per cent. of elementary school children in 1931 proceeded to secondary schools.—L.R.D. 49.

Five per cent. of pupils went on to a university from grant aided secondary schools.

1.5 per cent. of the population between the ages of 18 to 22 are students at the 12 universities and 4 university colleges (34,000).

(b) *Malnutrition and Poverty*

"Unemployment, under-nourishment and preventable maladies and accidents seem to be the unavoidable concomitant of current civilisation in Western Europe in the present day."

It would be difficult to find a more damning indictment of capitalist society than the above. Yet this statement comes from a man who has written a report of 295 pages designed to hide the horrible facts of

poverty, destitution and premature death in this country in consequence of the capitalist crisis. It is taken from the Report of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Sir G. Newman, for 1933.

STARVATION

Here are some other facts which he cannot hide: Newman is forced to admit that

“There can be no doubt that many people suffer by starving the body of certain constituents of a wholesome and sufficient dietary.”

He goes on to show that he knows the cause of this:—

“The availability and cheapness of certain articles of food is, of course, partly responsible for the wide consumption as compared with proteins, animal fat and fresh fruit and vegetables. (P. 163, Report.)

The School Medical Officer for London says that:

“Fresh vegetables and raw fruits are essential.”

He goes even nearer the root of the matter when he says that:

“Ma'nutrition is also related to poor home hygiene, lack of ventilation, lack of sleep, and overcrowding.” (P. 164, Report.)

HOW IT AFFECTS THE CHILDREN

A Newcastle doctor investigated a number of Newcastle children. This is what he said about them:—

“(1) At least 36.0 per cent. of the children from the poor districts of the city which I have examined were unhealthy or physically unfit, and as a result they appeared malnourished.

“(2) Since this . . . is not found in the children of better-class families, it is due to preventable causes.”

He attributed this state of affairs to (a) “the housing conditions, which permit mass infections of young children at susceptible ages,” and (b) improper and inadequate diet, which prevented satisfactory recovery from their illnesses.” (P. 214.)

Elsewhere Newman says:—

“For many years we have known that not less than 50,000 children (i.e., 1 per cent. of the total attendance at school) have been found on medical examination to be malnourished, and that another 3 or 4 per cent. (i.e., 150,000-200,000) were undernourished. (P. 256.)

He does not appear to think that this is a shameful record, but is inclined to pat everybody on the back because he tries to persuade us that “the nutritional condition of the people is better than it used to be.”

UNDERFEEDING

Mr. Humphrey, President N.U.T., said: “There are in our schools thousands of children underfed to the point of uneducatability . . . where there is no provision for meals the suffering of the children borders on wanton cruelty.”—104a. L. R.

In Rhondda “68.8 per cent. of the children certified on medical grounds as suffering from malnutrition received no nourishment at school from the local education authority.”—Medical Officer of Health.

This is due to a savage “Means Test.”

CHILDREN AND MOTHERS

Report of the Committee on Nutrition, B.M.A.:—

“It is considered that one pint of milk per day from

the age of 1 to 5 years, and half a pint a day to 10 years constitutes a sufficient and safe quantity, but more could be given with advantage." 1 pint 2½d., November, 1934. U.D.

"During the compilation of specimen diets constant vigilance has been exercised to keep the cost down to the minimum which permitted the purchase of an adequate diet. It has not been found possible to prepare a diet for a child at a less cost than half a crown a week."

MATERNAL MORTALITY

1933 stood at 4.51; the highest figure since 1911.

On page 261 it is stated that a pregnant woman should "become accustomed to a diet which includes ample milk (two pints a day), cheese, butter, eggs, fish, liver, fruit and fresh vegetables, which will supply her body with the essential elements, salts and vitamins."

Maternal mortality is increasing. The rate in 1931 was 3.94 per 1,000, in 1932 it had risen to 4.04 per 1,000, and in 1933 to as much as 4.51 per 1,000.

Sir Alfred Ewing's, presidential address to the British Association, 1932:—

"And the world finds itself glutted with competitive commodities, produced in a quantity too great to be absorbed. . . . Where shall we look for a remedy? I cannot tell."

HOW UNEMPLOYMENT AFFECTS THE WORKERS' HEALTH

Newman is so anxious to prove that health does not suffer from unemployment that he contradicts himself. He says that:—

"The evidence collected in every part of the country

indicates that the health of the unemployed and their dependents is, as a whole, not suffering seriously or generally."

Yet in April, 1934, when 66 members of the Regional Medical Staff (covering the whole of England and Wales) were asked to state what effects of unemployment they had observed in the health of the insured population:—

"No less than 41 stated that they had observed ill effects which they attributed to unemployment. Of these 41, 10 stated that the ill-effects were more pronounced in 1933 than in 1932. (P. 139, Report.)

In the face of this evidence even Newman is forced to admit that:—

"Some of the unemployed men, particularly the younger men, and certainly many of the women and children, in the distressed areas are showing the inevitable physical signs of prolonged deprivation." (P. 125, Report.)

Further on he states:—

"No one can be familiar with the conditions of the distressed areas without being aware of the physical, mental and social impairment associated with prolonged unemployment." (P. 123, Report.)

THE POVERTY LINE IN SHEFFIELD

(Here are a few figures—there are hundreds of thousands more instances all over the country.)

One-third of all the *families* in *Sheffield* have incomes below 42s. 6d. a week.

One-third of all the *families* in *Sheffield* have incomes between 42s. 6d. or 62s. 6d. a week.

One-third of all the families in *Sheffield* have incomes over 62s. 6d. a week.

One family in every five in Sheffield has an income below the subsistence level fixed by a National Government.

This means that in Sheffield one child in every three is starving.

SPEEDING-UP OF CHILD LABOUR AND CONSEQUENCES

The Ministry of Labour admits that there are 89,000 boys and girls under 18 without jobs: of these 37,000 are under 16. Sixteen thousand have never had a full-time job since leaving school.

(4) MISCELLANEOUS

ACCIDENTS

Deaths 1920-32, inclusive, were 3,304. In the same period injuries from train accidents have amounted to 1,343, from movement accidents to 40,530, and from non-movement accidents to no fewer than 198,258. For these years the roll of killed and injured has amounted to 243,436.

Between the two five-year periods, 1920-24 and 1925-29, the total labour force fell by 27,000, or by nearly 4 per cent. In the same period the number of workers killed and injured rose from the yearly average of 18,913 to a yearly average of 19,690, or by 4 per cent. The average of the four years 1929-32 was 17,400. This represents a fall of about 8 per cent. in the number of killed and injured as compared with the 1920-24 average; whereas the labour force in 1929-32 had fallen by 10 per cent. below the 1920-24 average.

Deaths in Coal Mines	Workshop and Factory Accidents
1,105	1,561
1,297	1,585
1,201	1,728
1,136	1,640
649	1,390
1,129	1,736
889	1,669
1,076	1,763
1,013	1,601
859	1,341
10,454	16,014

Total for 1922-31 is 84,921 deaths. (Statistical Abstract.)

			Suicides in U.K.	Deaths on Railways	Shipping (not those by disease)
1922	...	...	4,209	240	828
23	...	...	4,326	248	763
24	...	...	4,148	263	617
25	...	...	4,531	298	708
26	...	...	4,936	198	636
27	...	...	5,490	246	547
28	...	...	5,420	256	603
29	...	...	5,529	267	560
30	...	...	5,607	241	439
31	...	...	5,703	194	382
Total (10 yrs.)...			49,899	2,451	6,103

J. R. MacDonald, November 22, 1932, said: "Even if trade should recover and prosperity return, of having to find 'great bodies of men and women, perhaps even amounting to a couple of millions, to be, to all intents and purposes, in our society superfluous scrap.'"

POST OFFICE

Mr. W. J. Bowen, Secretary of the U.P.W., on March 6 said that no reduction has been made in P.O. hours for fifty years.

Sir Kingsley Wood said that the cost of the concession (10s. in basic wages and a working week of 40 hours) would cost an additional £6,000,000 a year. To pay an extra 10s. a week, moreover, would involve a further expenditure of £4,500,000.

In 1931-32 the staff fell by 886; 1932-33, 2,569.—
"L.R." 83, 1934.

Mr. R. C. Ruth, Chairman at the Annual Conference of the U.P.O.W. on May 7th, said:

"Since 1924 the Post Office net profits amounted to over £80,000,000."—"L.R." 151, 1934.

P.O. net receipts were up by £1,400,000, being £13.1 millions; these are expected to realise a further £900,000 next year.

CONVICT OR MINER?

Cost of upkeep of a convict is £136 4s. 2d. p.a.—Report of Commissioner of Prisons, 1932.

Wages of a miner at Gresford (disaster) are £110 p.a.

"As the collieries and workings became deeper, mining became unpopular; so that in the seventeenth century it was not uncommon for criminals to be pardoned by the King on condition that they would work for five years in the mines."—The British Isles, Dudley Stamp and H. Beaver, p. 306.

WORKERS AND CRIMINALS

Report of the Committee on Nutrition, British Medical Association:—

"For prisoners in Scotland 3,700 calories per day were required to enable prisoners doing moderately hard work to maintain health, weight and working capacity. . . . This figure (i.e., the 3,400 calories agreed upon as being a safe figure for the daily requirements of a man of average stature leading a healthy life with moderate muscular exertion) is slightly lower than that of the 'standard ration' of army troops in home stations (in 1933). It is considerably lower than the standard ration supplied to Territorial soldiers during their army training season."